3rd Biennial California Bay-Delta Program (CALFED) ***Science Conference***

Getting Results:
Integrating Science and Management to Achieve System-Level Responses

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: Friday, June 4, 2004

October 4–6, 2004 ***Sacramento Convention Center*** ***Sacramento, California***

The Biennial **California Bay-Delta Program (CALFED) Science Conference** is a forum for presenting scientific information and ideas relevant to the Program's goals and objectives in the Bay-Delta, its watershed, and the adjacent coastal ocean. The organizers of this 3rd Science Conference are seeking presentations in all four of the Bay-Delta Program's areas: ***ecosystem restoration, levee system integrity, water quality, and water supply reliability.*** The goal of the conference is to provide new information (i.e., results, models, syntheses, analyses) to the broad community of scientists, engineers, managers, and stake-holders working on Bay-Delta Program-related issues.

The conference program will feature both oral and poster presentations that provide scientific information and ideas relevant to the broad themes of the Bay-Delta Program, listed below, as well as the overall conference theme, "Getting Results: Integrating Science and Management to Achieve System-Level Responses." We encourage individuals to submit abstracts on any appropriate topic, regardless of funding source of the projects being described.

In addition to contributed sessions based on the abstracts received, the conference will feature seven special oral sessions, listed below, on topics of particular importance to the Bay-Delta Program.

If you are interested in serving as chair of a contributed session, please contact the Conference Program Co-Chairs: Anke Mueller-Solger at amueller@water.ca.gov and David Schoellhamer at dschoell@usgs.gov. Chair assignments will be made when the final list of conference sessions has been determined.

2004 CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY

SCIENCE CONFERENCE

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Conference Themes

Fish Protection— Science to evaluate and improve management strategies to protect fish populations. Fish protection strategies include ecosystem restoration activities, fishery management, the use of fish barriers, fish screening technologies, fish passage facilities, and the Environmental Water Account.

Habitats and Ecosystems— Science providing new insights into the ecological and physical processes governing and interconnecting habitats in the Bay-Delta and its watershed, and resulting lessons for more effective ecosystem restoration and management of various habitat types including riparian habitat, river channels, floodplains, flooded and in-channel islands, levees, wetlands, and terrestrial habitats.

Human Consequences— Science that explores the potential social, economic, and public health effects of the Bay-Delta Program's actions and solution strategies. Specific topics include studies of environmental justice, water resource economics, citizen involvement, local partnerships, conflict resolution strategies, watershed groups, and environmental law in the Bay-Delta and its watersheds.

Integrated Science in the South Delta— Results of integrated studies of the effects of water project facilities and operations on Delta flows and fish that can help the Bay-Delta Program improve both fish protection and water supply reliability.

Integrating Science and Management— Science-based management strategies to achieve the Bay-Delta Program's goals in ecosystem restoration, water quality, water supply reliability, and levee system integrity. Specific strategies include science-based decision making and planning tools, collaborative approaches, the use of conceptual models, and adaptive management.

Levees— Science that helps improve levee system integrity and explores the role of levees in ecosystem restoration and in the protection of habitats, water quality, water supplies, agricultural lands, and infrastructure.

Physical Processes— Science to better understand how physical processes such as climate change, hydrodynamics, sediment transport, and geomorphology may affect achievement of the Bay-Delta Program's goals.

Species and Communities— Science that advances monitoring, understanding and management of key species and their ecological functions and requirements in the Bay-Delta and its watershed. Key species include species of special concern, nonnative invasive species, nuisance species, and key food web species.

Water and Sediment Quality— Science that advances monitoring, understanding and management of key environmental and drinking water quality constituents and associated biogeochemical processes and ecosystem and public health effects in the Bay-Delta and its watersheds. Key water and sediment quality constituents include inorganic contaminants, organic contaminants, organic matter, salinity, nutrients, and dissolved oxygen.

Watersheds— Science that improves the process of evaluating, planning, restoring, and organizing land and other resource use within a watershed to achieve the Bay-Delta Program goal of restoring ecological health and improving water management by working with the community at a watershed level.

Water Supplies— Science advancing water supply management strategies to achieve the Bay-Delta Program's goal of improving water supply reliability. Management strategies may involve operation of water conveyance facilities, water use efficiency, water demand predictions, water transfers, and water storage options.

Special Oral Sessions

Central Valley Salmonids— This session will present recent studies and analyses that advance our understanding of life history strategies and management practices that affect our ability to restore naturally spawning Chinook salmon and steelhead populations in the Central Valley.

Data and Advocacy—What is the Role for Environmental Justice?— This session examines how science can be used to bolster environmental justice advocacy and conversely how environmental justice issues and concerns can and should be integrated into the scientific process.

Indicators of Wetland Condition— This session presents new results on developing integrated indicators of wetland condition, with emphasis on discerning contaminant effects, which support the Bay-Delta Program in its efforts to examine contaminant effects in representative important species in the Bay-Delta system.

Managing and Restoring Big Rivers Below Big Dams— The session will examine the goals and results of completed restoration projects on a variety of Central Valley rivers, emphasizing lessons learned in managing, restoring, and monitoring large, complex river systems and the potential for mimicking pre-dam hydrogeomorphic processes to support restoration of key aquatic and riparian species and their habitats.

Native and Resident Fishes— The goal of this session is to facilitate the exchange of new research on

the biology and ecology of native and resident fishes, and how this new information can be applied to habitat restoration and species conservation in the estuary and its watershed.

Restoring and Managing California Native Grasslands— The objective of this session is to foster discussion about the future directions for grassland research and the implications of current findings for the restoration and management of California native grassland communities, based on coordinated research efforts in rangelands of the Willow Slough watershed in Yolo County.

What Restoration Ecologists Should Know about Mercury— This session is specifically intended to communicate to the restoration community, in a manner understandable to non-specialists, the current state of knowledge regarding mercury in the region. The interaction of restoration scientists and mercury scientists can lead to both reduced impacts of restoration projects on mercury accumulation and acceleration of the advancement of mercury science.

Abstract Requirements

All presenters (oral and poster) must submit an abstract using the on-line form accessible through the conference website address provided below. There is a 300-word limit on the abstract text. Please fill in all of the blanks on the form, including indication of the appropriate theme or special session, any special projection equipment needs, and your preference for an oral or poster presentation.

Depending on the number and content of abstracts submitted, program chairs may move some of the requested oral presentations into the poster session and vice versa, and incompletely or poorly written abstracts and those that are not relevant to Bay-Delta Program (CALFED) goals and objectives may not be accepted.

Abstract Content

A complete abstract should include the following four components:

- **Problem Statement:** What problem are you trying to solve?
- **Approach:** How did you go about solving or making progress on the problem?
- **Results:** What are your main findings?
- **Conclusions/ Relevance:** What are the scientific and management implications of your findings, including the relevance of your findings to Bay-Delta Program goals and objectives? *Authors are strongly encouraged to include this relevance statement in the abstract.*

Oral Presentations

The oral presentations are expected to advance our state of knowledge by focusing on new findings, models, and syntheses of past and ongoing studies that are relevant to Bay-Delta Program technical issues rather than on project or program descriptions and summaries. Because we anticipate that requests for oral presentations will exceed the available time-slots, the Program Committee will assign oral presentations on the basis of the technical merit of the abstracts, including relevance of the topic, soundness of the approach, and importance of the findings. For that reason, abstracts should provide a clear description of the contribution, i.e., results and their significance, *including their relevance to Bay-Delta Program (CALFED) goals and objectives,* as described above. Use of such phrases as "results will be discussed" is discouraged.

Poster Presentations

The poster session will be a very important part of the Science Conference. Posters will be displayed throughout the conference, and will be featured during social sessions on the afternoons of the 1st and 2nd days of the conference to encourage open discussion between the presenters and conference attendees. A major component of the poster session will be presentations of results from individual science and restoration projects funded by the California Bay-Delta Program. Posters may also include project/program summaries relevant to Bay-Delta Program issues. Presenters should indicate the theme most pertinent to the subject of the poster from the list on the abstract submittal form, as the posters will be arranged by theme. *Please note: inclusion of a statement in the text of the abstract and poster on the relevance of the study's findings to Bay-Delta Program goals and objectives is strongly encouraged.*

Student Presentations

Awards will be given for the best student oral and poster presentations during the conference. Please indicate student status on the abstract form. *To qualify for a student award, you must have carried out the presented work while you were a registered student, and you must make the presentation yourself.*

Questions?

Questions about the technical program or the abstract submittal process should be directed to the Program Co-Chairs, Anke Mueller-Solger at amueller@water.ca.gov and David Schoellhamer at dschoell@usgs.gov.

The form for on-line abstract submittal is located at the following website address:
http://iep.water.ca.gov/calfed/sciconf/2004/

Information on the California Bay-Delta Program is available at **http://calwater.ca.gov/**

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